

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 H-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IO-10 PM-03

DODE-00 COME-00 STR-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01 PRS-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 /072 W

----- 010377

O R 121430Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0552

INFO USDEL RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1793

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: USSAEC, EAID, SA, US

SUBJECT: US/SAUDI ECONOMIC COMMISSION - PROPOSED TEAM VISIT
POSTPONED

REF: STATE 53909; B. STATE 46689; C. JIDDA 0832; D. JIDDA
6585, NOV. 11, 1974; E. JIDDA 6245, OCT. 29, 1974; F. JIDDA
6057

1. EMBASSY REGRETS THAT PROPOSED JOINT COMMISSION TEAM VISIT
MUST BE POSTPONED, NO REPEAT NO HOTEL SPACE IS AVAILABLE IN
RIYADH, ESPECIALLY ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, AND ALL PRIVATE
BEDS ACCESSIBLE TO US ARE ALREADY BEING FILLED BY PERSONNEL
NOW IN RIYADH FOR THE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER.

2. REFTEL A. STATES THAT THE MESSAGE FROM BOWDEN TO SOLAIM
SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED BY EMBASSY TO SALAIM ZIF EMBASSY HAS
NO OBJECTION." WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT THE MESSAGE WAS
SENT TO SOLAIM DIRECTLY BY TELEX. WE THOUGHT THIS PROBLEM
WAS SOLVED SOME TIME AGO. (SEE REFTEL F) IS IT NOW
NECESSARY TO REPEAT AGAIN THAT SUCH MESSAGES ARE NOT TO
GO DIRECTLY TO SOLAIM? WE REQUEST AGAIN THAT TREASURY
BE INFORMED AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL THAT SUCH ACTION IS
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UNACCEPTABLE, AND THAT CONCRETE STEPS BE TAKEN TO ASSURE

AGAINST ANOTHER REPETITION OF A PROBLEM WHICH SHOULD BE ANCIENT HISTORY.

3. WE ALSO QUESTION THE MAKE-UP OF THE PROPOSED TEAM. THIS TRIP SHOULD HAVE THE PRIMARY GOAL OF SETTING UP THE RIYADH OFFICE. ANY TEAM SO DOING IS GOING TO FACE A LARGE NUMBER OF OBSTACLES. THIS MAKES IT NECESSARY THAT: A. WE BE ASSURED THAT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE TEAM IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER WITH CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING EXPERIENCE OPERATING IN AN UNDERDEVELOPED AREA; AND B. THE TEAM BE PREPARED TO SPEND MORE THAN A FEW HOURS IN JIDDA. FRANKLY, FROM THE TONE OF REFTEL A AND PREVIOUS, WE DON'T BELIEVE TREASURY REALLY UNDERSTANDS WHAT THIS TEAM IS IN FOR. WE INTEND TO APPOINT EMBASSY'S ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR AS CONTROL OFFICER FOR THIS TEAM IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED TO SOLVE THE NUMEROUS HARD ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS COMING UP. THE TEAM WILL ALSO NEED EXHAUSTIVE CONVERSATIONS IN JIDDA WITH AMBASSADOR, DCM, GSO AND B&F, AS WELL AS WITH THE ECONOMIC SECTION.

4. WE AGREE THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE TRUST ACCOUNT SHOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED AND A MUTUAL AGREEMENT FINALIZED. WE WOULD HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT THE TEAM WOULD INCLUDE SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH OPERATION OF SUCH ACCOUNTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE WILL ALSO ARRANGE APPOINTMENTS WITH USGS, UNITED NATIONS, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AND OTHERS WHO HAVE OPERATED IN SAUDI ARABIA UNDER SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS. TEAM MUST BE PREPARED TO SPEND A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME ON THIS QUESTION.

5. WE AGREE COMPLETELY THAT IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO GET THE RIYADH OFFICE AND THE TRUST ACCOUNT INTO FULL OPERATION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. IT IS UNFORTUNATE, THEREFORE, THAT THE ACTUAL EFFORT SHOULD BEGIN ON THIS NOTE. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT STATE CAN OVERCOME THESE DIFFICULTIES BY PUTTING ITS FOOT DOWN NOW.

6. WE ARE INFORMING DR. SOLAIM THAT TEAM VISIT WILL BE DELAYED BY KISSINGER VISIT. HE HAS ALREADY STATED IT WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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BETTER IF TCA COULD BE RATIFIED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS PRIOR TO TEAM'S ARRIVAL.

7 ACTION REQUESTED: A. TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION AT HIGHEST LEVEL TO MAKE SURE THAT MESSAGES SUCH AS THIS WILL NOT BE SENT DIRECTLY FROM TREASURY TO DR. SOLAIM; B. INFORM EMBASSY WHAT CONCRETE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE; C. INFORM TREASURY THAT PROPOSED VISIT

MUST BE POSTPONED; D. CONSULT WITH TREASURY ON THE
ULTIMATE MAKE UP OF TEAM TO UNDERTAKE THE TASKS POSED
IN REFTTEL AND ABOVE; E. REEMPHASIZE THAT NO TRAVEL TO
SAUDI ARABIA IS TO TAKE PLACE EARLIER THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER
EMBASSY APPROVAL.

AKINS

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